

The Rise in Homelessness Shekinah Mission

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The aim of this poster is to identify the rise in homelessness from an individual, social, local and global perspective.

Local/Plymouth:

The Shekinah Mission is a charity working with people who have multiple complex needs.

It started as a homeless charity 26 years ago but later recognised other needs such as drug/alcohol dependency.

Shekinah is the only open access centre in Plymouth.

"We would argue the [broad] system is broken...

Individual systems create 'silos' so people with complex needs are bounced around the system." John Hamblin, chief executive of Shekinah Mission.



John Hamblin outside the Shekinah Mission, Plymouth Herald 2018

Mental health cuts:

- Since 1993 depression and anxiety rates have increased by 70%.
- Government cuts of 8.2% have cost mental health services £598 million.
- "100 people a day with a mental health diagnosis are sanctioned by the DWP... these people are going without food, without heat, without energy in their homes. Is words upon air. It means nothing."
- A survey conducted in 2015 found multiple factors e.g. long waiting lists and higher thresholds for therapy, made it difficult for people to access essential services. Broomfield (2017)

Global:

Housing first

- International evidence-based approach
- First developed in New York in 1992 and still growing in popularity
- Independent housing to allow for recovery
- No conditions for the housing
- High intensity support
- £23 million funding

Homeless (2018)

HFE (2017)



Housing First logo

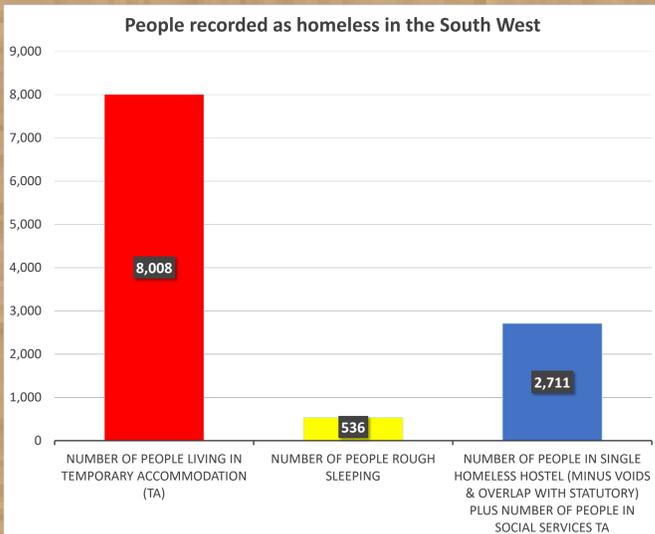
Local & National Statistics:

The bar chart on the left depicts the number of people in the South West who are living without a permanent residence.

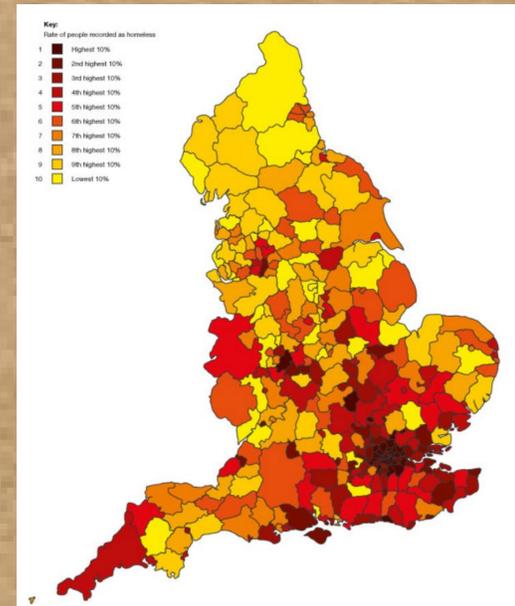
On the right is a map showing the rate of people recorded as homeless per area of England. London is in the highest 10% of people recorded as homeless; this is conveyed by the area being a darker red. The North East appears to be in the lowest 10% due to it being yellow.

Homeless Link found that 55% of homelessness agencies saw an increase in demand for their services over the last year. In addition to this, over a quarter of young people using the services were aged between 16 and 17. Huffington post (2018)

Since the conservatives came to power, levels of rough sleeping in Plymouth have almost tripled. Plymouth Herald (2018)



Bar chart showing the number of people recorded as homeless in the South west as of Q2 2017. Data available from Shelter (2017).



Heat map showing the rate of people recorded as homeless in the UK as of Q2 2017. Shelter (2017).

Reasons:

- Change in government policy
- Welfare reforms
- Evictions
- Austerity
- Reduced funding in services

Welfare reform:

The government in 2010 introduced 'Universal Credit' this dramatically changed how benefits were paid. This caused major repercussions and forced people out of their homes. Landlords are evicting families, often illegally, due to the insecure income.

- There has been a 60% increase in the number of families in the UK who are homeless. This is most likely due to the governments welfare reforms.
- All definitions of homelessness have increased greatly over the last six years
- The National Audit Office completed a snapshot overnight count in autumn 2016 and found there were over 4,000 rough sleepers- a significant increase on the last 6 years.
- Watchdog have found that while benefits are being cut, rent costs have increased. BBC News (2018).

What needs to change:

- Prevention rather than just 'firefighting'. For there to be significant change, the government needs to address the wider social issues and the individual struggles by implementing an intervention earlier in life.
- Mental Health Services to be made widely available to all - early intervention at school age. The Government do not like to invest in something that has not yet happened but must have the foresight to address the precursors.
- More funding for education and support for 'enabling' Homeless people to change their future. This will allow them to live their lives free from addiction, ill health and change the future for the generations that proceed them.

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